

In Paper No. 11, the Examiner has formally rejected claims 14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. However, since these claims were canceled by the Amendment filed September 27, 2002, this rejection is not valid. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 13, 15-18, and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 11-080758 ("JP '758"), which the Examiner argues teaches all of the claimed elements. The Examiner notes that Applicants cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome the rejection because a translation thereof has not been made of record. Accordingly, submitted herewith are verified translations of the two priority documents, Japanese Patent Applications Nos. 10-284068, filed October 6, 1998, and 10-342308, filed November 17, 1998. Since the two priority documents alone or together support the present claims and the filing dates of both priority documents are prior to the publication date of JP '758 of March 26, 1999, JP '758 is not effective as prior art against the present application, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art of record and in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 5, 2003
(Date)

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Enclosures: Transmittal of Verified Translations of Priority Documents and Translations
Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement